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Philippines: draft resolution

Implementation of the World Programme of Action Concerning Disabled Persons: realizing the Millennium Development Goals for persons with disabilities

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions concerning persons with disabilities, the most recent of which was resolution 60/131 of 16 December 2005, in which it recognized the important role of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons[1] in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals,

Recalling also its resolutions on the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities and its resolution 61/106 of 13 December 2006, by which the Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities[2] and the Optional Protocol to the Convention,[3]

Recalling further the 2005 World Summit, held on 16 September 2005, at which Heads of State and Government, inter alia, expressed their resolve to ensure the timely and full realization of development goals and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals,[4]

Aware that there are at least 650 million persons with disabilities worldwide and that the majority of them are among the poorest of the poor, a fact which highlights the urgent need for concerted practical action to address poverty among persons with disabilities,

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[1] Resolution 37/52, by which the General Assembly adopted the World Programme of Action as set forth in A/37/351/Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1, annex, sect. VIII, recommendation I (IV).
[2] Resolution 61/106, annex I.
[3] Resolution 61/106, annex II.
[4] See resolution 60/1, para. 17.

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Convinced that addressing the profound social, cultural and economic disadvantage experienced by many persons with disabilities and that promoting progressive removal of barriers to their full and effective participation in all aspects of development will further the equalization of opportunities and contribute to the realization of a "society for all" in the twenty-first century,

Reaffirming the continuing validity and value of the World Programme of Action in providing guidance for the full and effective achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, for persons with disabilities,

Stressing the particular and complementary contributions of current international instruments concerning persons with disabilities, each of which constitutes an important building block for the achievement of time-bound and quantifiable commitments set forth in outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields,

Convinced that the 2010 review of global progress, including obstacles encountered in implementing the outcome of the Millennium Summit, should include an evaluation of the measures taken to achieve the Millennium Development Goals as they impact on persons with disabilities,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons;[5]

2. *Welcomes* the work of the Special Rapporteur on Disability of the Commission for Social Development;

3. *Expresses concern* about the persistent gap between policy and practice regarding mainstreaming the disability perspective in the work of the United Nations;

4. *Encourages* Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector, as appropriate, to examine and ensure that development strategies, policies and programmes aimed at implementing internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, are disability-inclusive and promote the equalization of opportunities for all by:

(a) Promoting environmental accessibility, with reasonable adaptation, in the physical environment and in the field of information and communications technology in order to ensure that persons with disabilities are able to participate on the basis of equality as agents and beneficiaries of development;

(b) Providing appropriate and accessible social services and safety nets to ensure improved well-being for all;

(c) Promoting and strengthening national capacities for participatory, democratic and accountable processes, including mechanisms that further the equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities in civil and political, economic, social and cultural life;

5. *Encourages* Governments to develop and analyse statistics on the situation of persons with disabilities, bearing in mind the provision of appropriate

[5] A/62/157.

protection of personal data, for purposes of disability-inclusive policy planning, analysis and evaluation, and in this regard invites Governments to avail themselves of the technical services of the United Nations Statistics Division;

6. *Urges* concerned entities of the United Nations system, including agencies, funds and programmes, and invites international and regional development finance institutions, to take concrete measures to incorporate the disability perspective in their development cooperation and development finance activities;

7. *Reaffirms* the role of the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability in supporting catalytic and innovative action to implement the development goals and objectives of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons,[1] and to build national capacities to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities in the context of development;

8. *Calls upon* all parties involved in the discussions of the United Nations system-wide coherence in the areas of development, humanitarian assistance and environment to ensure that the disability perspective is appropriately incorporated in the examination of options, decisions and evaluations related to the implementation of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

9. *Calls upon* Governments to include a review and evaluation of the impact of development efforts on the rights, well-being and livelihood of persons and disabilities in country reports in connection with the 2010 review of progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals;

10. *Encourages* Governments, intergovernmental organizations and concerned entities of the United Nations system to continue to take practical action, in cooperation with concerned non-governmental organizations and other civil society organizations, including organizations of persons with disabilities, to implement the World Programme of Action to achieve internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to give higher priority to disability issues within the work programme of the United Nations system and to strengthen the role of the United Nations and its development programmes and agencies in mainstreaming disability issues within the United Nations system through:

(a) Promoting the integration of disability issues in the policies, programmes and projects of the Secretariat and the other United Nations bodies and agencies on a broader scale and with higher priority, and in this regard to ensure that the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses is disability-inclusive;

(b) Further strengthening action and assistance in least developed countries and in regions, with special attention to vulnerable groups;

(c) Initiating pilot projects to assist Member States in formulating comprehensive and coherent disability policies and action plans, including projects that promote technical cooperation, in particular in order to enhance the capacities of government agencies to implement programmes on disability;

(d) Reviewing the human development index of the United Nations Development Programme in order to facilitate further understanding of it from the disability perspective;

12. *Decides* that the fifth review and appraisal of the World Programme of Action, to be conducted by the Assembly in 2008, shall direct special attention to the issues raised in paragraphs 3 to 11 above;

13. *Decides also* to rename the International Day of Disabled Persons, observed every year on 3 December, the International Day of Persons with Disabilities;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to:

(a) Submit an analytical and policy-oriented report on the fifth review and appraisal of the World Programme of Action at its sixty-third session as a contribution to the 2010 review of the progress, including obstacles encountered in implementing the goals of the Millennium Summit, particularly the Millennium Development Goals;

(b) Present, as an annex to the report requested in paragraph 14 (a) above, proposed updates of the World Programme of Action, in accordance with paragraph 201 of the World Programme of Action.